



September 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Residents of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell

Re: Escaped Wild Boars

Wild boars have been observed in wooded areas and in adjacent farm fields in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell beginning in late summer of 2013. Wild boars (feral swine) are not native to North America, but are sometimes farm-raised for their meat or other commercial purposes. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA) requires that any escape of wildlife that has been transported into Ontario, or has been propagated by stock that was transported into Ontario, must be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and that the owner of such wildlife must recapture or kill it as soon as possible. To date, there has been no report of escaped wild boars and MNRF staff persons have been unable to determine the owner of these animals. As a result, the MNRF is authorizing landowners and hunters to kill any wild boars sighted as per Section 54 (5) of the FWCA.

Wild boars negatively impact wildlife populations and ecosystems through predation, competition, grazing and rooting, they may cause crop damage and transmit disease to domestic swine, and can also be a threat to human safety. MNRF would like to ensure that these escaped farm animals are removed from the landscape as soon as possible. Private landowners may kill these escaped boars in protection of property and hunters may kill them under the authority of a small game hunting licence. All relevant federal, provincial, and municipal legislation (e.g., trespassing, discharge of firearms by-laws, firearm licensing requirements) also applies.

Landowners and hunters are reminded that if they intend to shoot a wild boar, they should be certain of their target before shooting. They should aim for the shoulder (or slightly ahead of the shoulder) on a broadside boar, as the vital area of a pig is more forward than that of a deer. If the animal is moving toward or away from the shooter, the shot should be placed so the bullet will end up in the vitals between the shoulders. Wild boars may weigh 90 kilograms or more, and will be dark grey to black, or brown, with thick, bristly hair and possibly tusks.

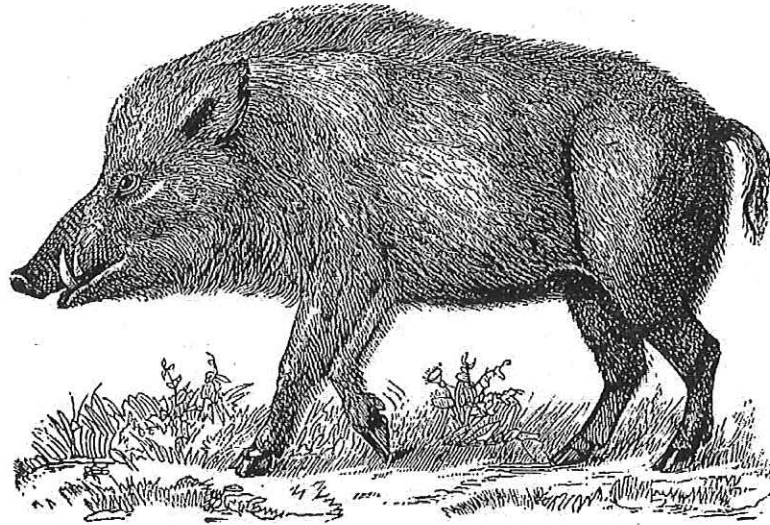
Feral swine pose significant challenges in many jurisdictions in North America and MNRF requires the assistance of landowners and hunters to avoid a similar situation in Ontario. MNRF is tracking the movement and recovery of these wild boars in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell and it is critical to obtain information on the numbers and locations of any wild boars sighted or killed. If you have seen or shot a wild boar, have information on a wild boar sighting, shooting or vehicle collision, or would like more information, please contact Mary Dillon, Management Biologist at MNRF's Kemptville District Office at: (613) 258-8267 or mary.dillon@ontario.ca. Alternatively, you can call the ministry's Natural Resource Information Centre (NRIC) toll-free at 1(800) 667-1940 and ask to be re-directed to the Kemptville District Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Thompson".

Dan Thompson
District Manager, Kemptville District Office

Have You Seen This Animal?



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Wild boars negatively impact wildlife populations and ecosystems through predation, competition, grazing and rooting, they may cause crop damage and transmit disease to domestic swine, and can also be a threat to human safety. These animals are not native to North America and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) would like to see them removed from the landscape as soon as possible. We would like your help.

Please contact Mary Dillon, Management Biologist, MNR's Kemptville District Office at: (613) 258-8267 or mary.dillon@ontario.ca if you:

- Have seen or shot a wild boar;
- Have information on a wild boar sighting or shooting;
- Have information on a vehicle collision with a wild boar; or
- Would like more information on wild boar.

Alternatively, you can call the ministry's Natural Resource Information Centre (NRIC) toll-free at 1(800) 667-1940 and ask to be re-directed to the Kemptville District Office.